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FORGOTTEN REALMS

HOMELAND

THE LEGEND OF DRIZZT BOOK I

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Far beneath the surface of the FORGOTTEN REALMS lies the Underdark, where the evil DROW hold dominion. In Menzoberranzan, a vast city hewn from subterranean rock, these Dark Elves indulge their basest desires: Ambition. Lust. Greed. And the most ambitious of all Drow families is HOUSE DO'URDEN.

Driven by the ruthless MATRON MALICE, House Do'urden has made enemies even while it has increased its power. Rival families, fearing this upstart, now plot its destruction.

House Do'urden's only hope may be the family's black sheep, the one drow who values justice and honor -- DRIZZT, fast becoming the most feared warrior in all the Underdark...

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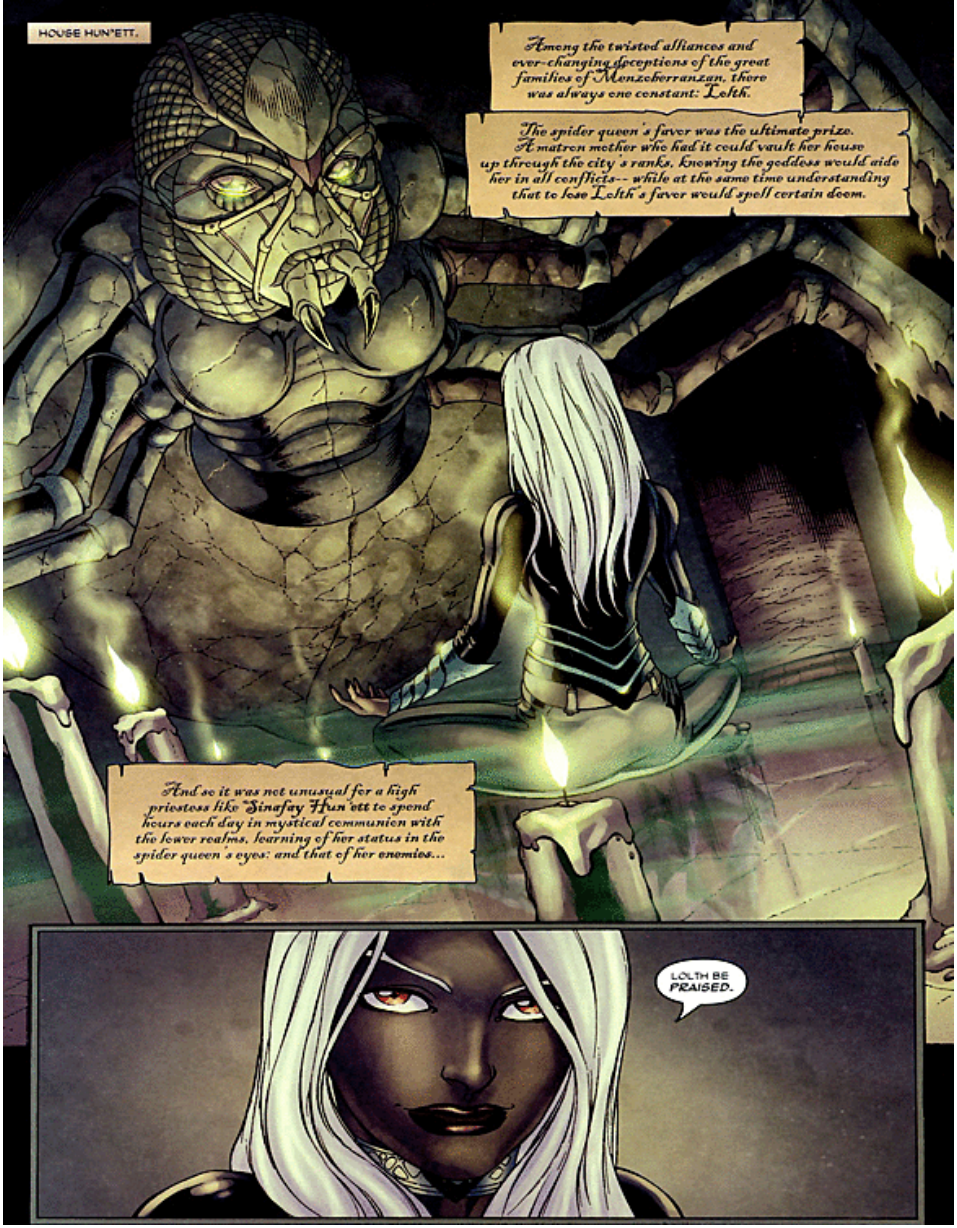
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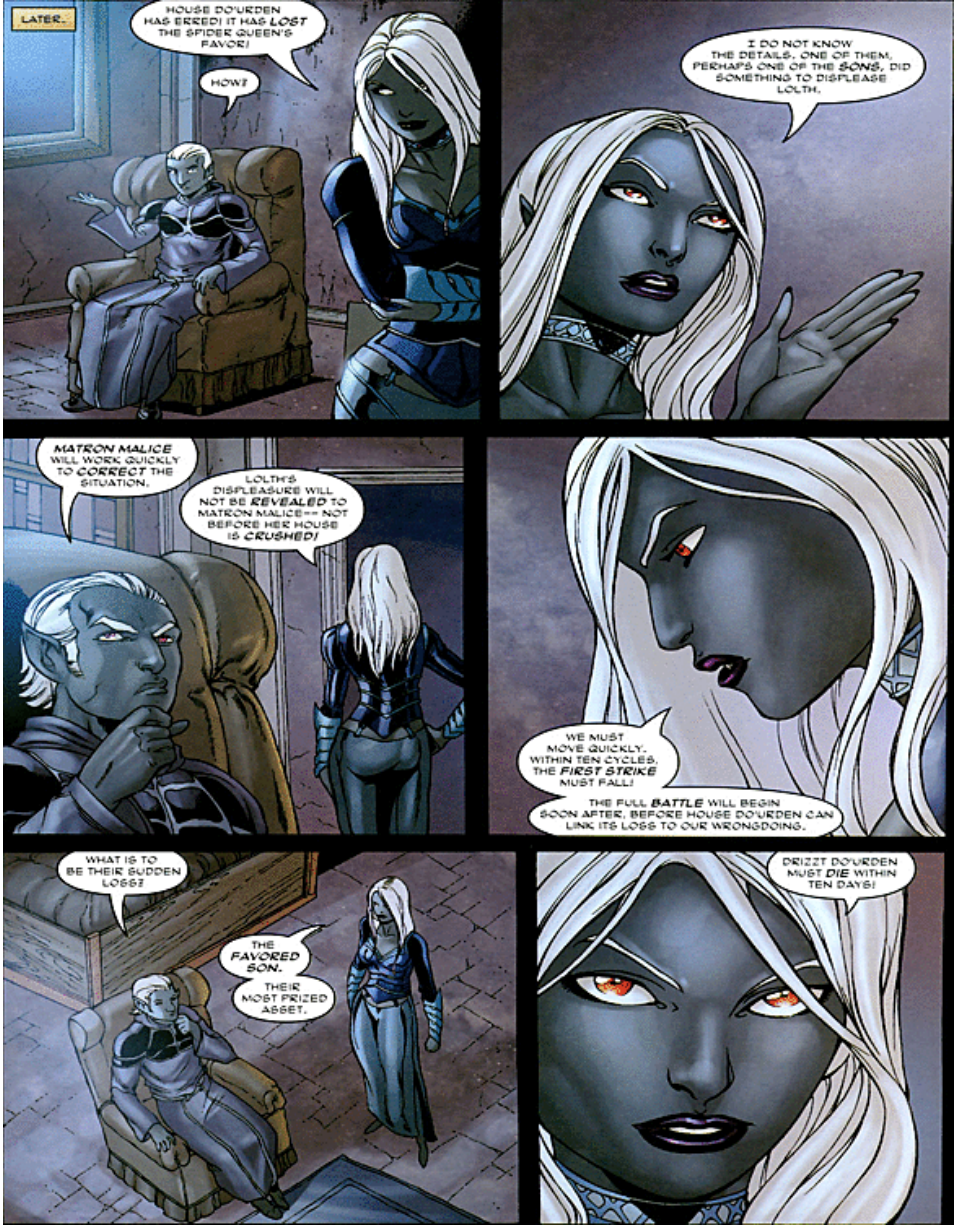
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HOUSE HUN'ETT.
Among the twisted alliances and ever-changing deceptions of the great families of Menzoberranzan, there was always one constant: Lolth.
The spider queen's favor was the ultimate prize. A matron mother who had it could vault her house up through the city's ranks, knowing the goddess would aide her in all conflicts-- while at the same time understanding that to lose Lolth's favor would spell certain doom.
And so it was not unusual for a high priestess like Sinafay Hun'ett to spend hours each day in mystical communion with the lower realms, learning of her status in the spider queen's eyes: and that of her enemies...
LOLTH BE PRAISED.


LATER...
HOUSE DO'URDEN HAS ERRED! IT HAS LOST THE SPIDER QUEEN'S FAVOR!
HOW?
I DO NOT KNOW THE DETAILS. ONE OF THEM, PERHAPS ONE OF THE SONS, DID SOMETHING TO DISPLEASE LOLTH.
MATRON MALICE WILL WORK QUICKLY TO CORRECT THE SITUATION.
LOLTH'S DISPLEASURE WILL NOT BE REVEALED TO MATRON MALICE-- NOT BEFORE HER HOUSE IS CRUSHED!
WE MUST MOVE QUICKLY. WITHIN TEN CYCLES, THE FIRST STRIKE MUST FALL!
THE FULL BATTLE WILL BEGIN SOON AFTER, BEFORE HOUSE DO'URDEN CAN LINK ITS LOSS TO OUR WRONGDOING.
WHAT IS TO BE THEIR SUDDEN LOSS?
THE FAVORED SON.
THEIR MOST PRIZED ASSET.
DRIZZT DO'URDEN MUST DIE WITHIN TEN DAYS!


The awful memory of the surface raid followed Drizzt, haunted him as he wandered the halls of his family's home.
The images remained: the broken sparkle in the young elven girl's eyes as she knelt over her murdered mother...
...the elven woman's horrified expression, twisting in agony as the life was ripped from her body.
The surface elves were there in Drizzt's thoughts always, he could not dismiss them.
He wondered if he would ever be alone again.
YOU ARE HOME.
FOR A DAY, MY PATROL GROUP GOES BACK OUT IN THE MORNING.
SO SOON?
THERE IS ACTIVITY IN THE EASTERN TUNNELS.
SO THE HEROES ARE SUMMONED.
HOW LONG WILL YOU BE OUT?
A WEEK AT THE LONGEST, THEN HOME.
THAT IS GOOD. I WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE YOU BACK WITHIN THESE WALLS.
THE GYM, PERHAPS? YOU AND I, AS IT ONCE WAS?


I WOULD ENJOY THAT.
AS WOULD I.
A WEEK THEN.
As they parted, Drizzt was left to envision the satisfaction he would gain by cutting Zaknafein down.
Years ago he had thought of the weapon master as an ally, someone he could trust. But that was a lie. Zak was nothing more than a heartless murderer, like all of Drizzt's evil race.
Maybe by destroying Zaknafein, his greatest disappointment, Drizzt could remove himself from the wrongness around him.
As for Zaknafein, he carried no anger, no malice.
Drizzt was a drow warrior now, with all of the wicked connotations the title carries.
A clean blow, and he would do what he should have done a decade before.
He would kill Zaknafein in a week.
He had to kill Drizzt.


ELSEWHERE.
Living among the twists and turns of the Underdark, the Svirfneblì, deep gnomes, were neither kind nor evil, and so out of place in this world of pervading wickedness.
Yet they survive and thrive, plucking gems and precious metals from the rock, in spite of the perils awaiting them at every turn.
Indeed, it was a rich vein of gemstones that had brought Borrow-warden Belwar Dissengulp's small mining expedition to this distant corner of the Underdark...
...a mere five miles away from Menzoberranzan, home to twenty thousand drow elves, the Svirfneblì's most hated enemy.
As a precaution against this, Belwar had kept fully a third of his crew on guard at all times.
MIGHT WE PARLAY WITH THE GNOMES, DININ?
I WILL FORGET YOU ASKED THAT QUESTION, BROTHER.
GET TO THE GNOME LEADER-- HE IS THE KEY TO THEIR STRENGTH WITH THE STONE. THE ENTIRE PATROL WILL BE BY YOUR SIDE IN MOMENTS.


WHAT--?
THOK
ATTACK!


STAY BACK!
ELEMENTAL!
RRRR


KRAK!
HRM!
IF IT CAN BE HURT, IT CAN BE KILLED.
HELP!
GUENHWYVAR! NO!

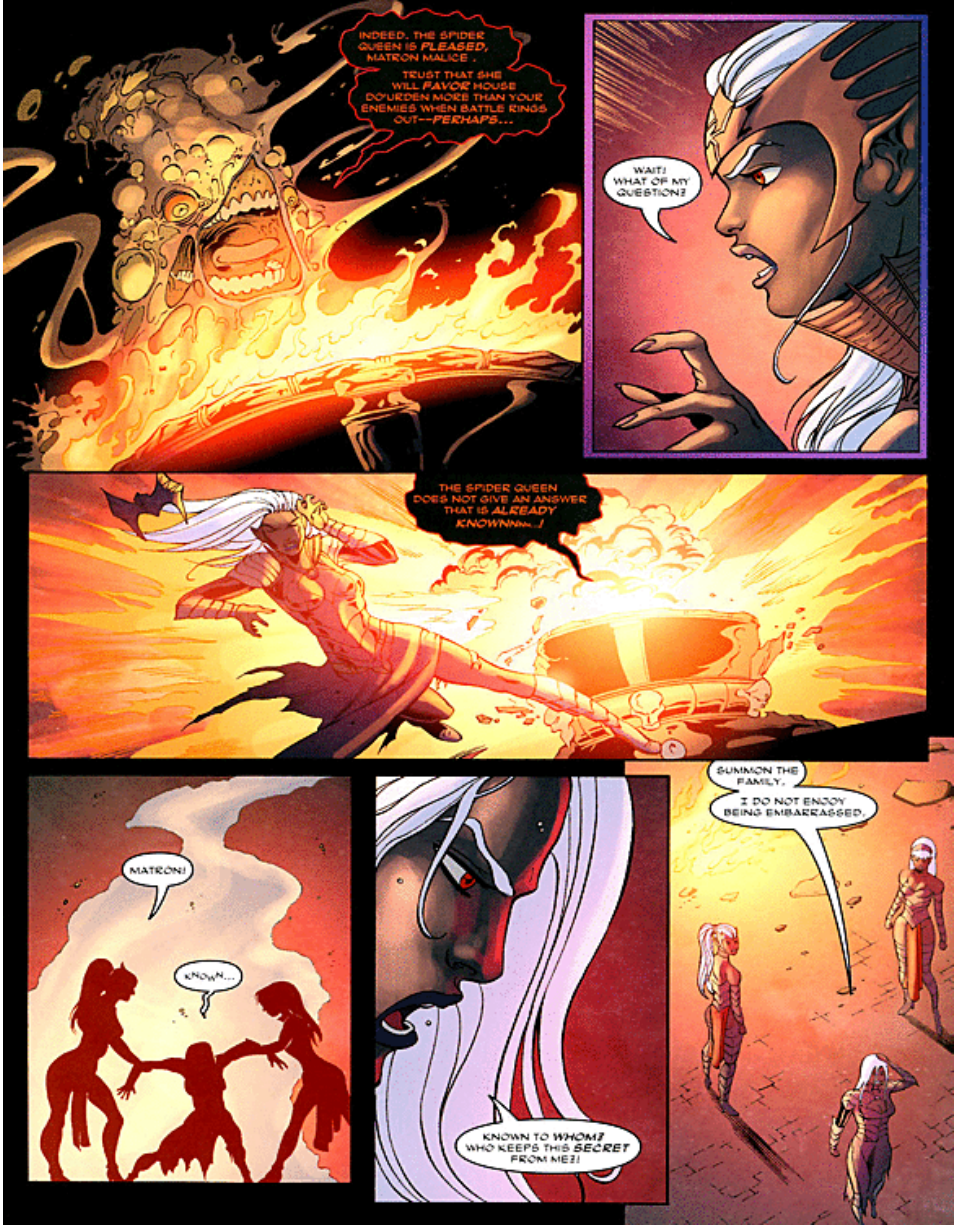

WHOOM
YOU ARE DEAD.


NOW IS THE TIME TO STRIKE!
ZZZZAKK
ARE YOU DEAD?
TOO EASY.
WHUD


KAFF
KAFF
TORTURE ME NOW AND HAVE YOUR FUN, THAT IS YOUR EVIL WAY!
SVIRFNEBLI DON'T TORTURE! DROW ELVES TORTURE!
IF YOU'RE TO DIE, IT WILL BE BY A SINGLE CLEAN BLOW.
NO.
IT WON'T.
MASOJ, GUENHWYVAR IS SHE--?
MY GUENHWYVAR IS A CREATURE OF POWERFUL MAGIC-- A LITTLE REST ON HER HOME PLANE AND SHE'LL BE FINE.


NOW FOR SOME FUN.
NO!
LET HIM LIVE!
I... IF YOU KILL HIM, NO GNOMES WILL REMAIN TO RETURN TO THEIR CITY AND TELL OF OUR STRENGTH!
WE SHOULD SEND HIM BACK TO HIS PEOPLE TO TELL THEM OF THEIR FOLLY IN ENTERING THE DOMAIN OF THE DROW!
IS THIS NECESSARY--?
THIS IS A MESSAGE.
IT SEEMS PROPER REASONING.
THEN CUT OFF THE GNOME'S HANDS FIRST. I WANT TO HEAR HIS SCREAMS.
SCHLUNK


THE DO'URDEN CHAPEL.
EXPLAIN TO ME WHY YOU DARE DISTURB ME!
TO ASK A SIMPLE QUESTION, ONE WHOSE ANSWER YOU KNOW, HANDMAIDEN OF LOLTH.
HOUSE DO'URDEN HAS PLEASED THE SPIDER QUEEN.
THE MALES OF YOUR HOUSE WON THE DAY AGAINST THE VILE GNOMES. ASK YOUR QUESTION.
MY HOUSE IS THREATENED, SAY THE RUMORS.
RUMORS? THEY ARE MORE THAN RUMORS, MATRON MALICE DO'URDEN. ANOTHER HOUSE PLANS WAR UPON YOU!
NAME THIS HOUSE TO ME. OUR ENEMIES HOLD EVERY ADVANTAGE. NO DOUBT THEY WATCH US, LAYING THEIR PLANS.
WE ASK LOLTH ONLY TO GIVE US KNOWLEDGE EQUAL TO THAT OF OUR ENEMIES. REVEAL THEM AND LET US PROVE WHICH HOUSE IS THE MORE WORTHY OF VICTORY.
AND WHAT IF YOUR ENEMIES ARE GREATER THAN YOU?
BE ASSURED THAT THEY WILL SUFFER FOR THEIR ATTACK ON HOUSE DO'URDEN, NO MATTER HOW GREAT THEY MIGHT BE!


INDEED. THE SPIDER QUEEN IS PLEASED, MATRON MALICE .
TRUST THAT SHE WILL FAVOR HOUSE DO'URDEN MORE THAN YOUR ENEMIES WHEN BATTLE RINGS OUT--PERHAPS...
WAIT! WHAT OF MY QUESTION?
THE SPIDER QUEEN DOES NOT GIVE AN ANSWER THAT IS ALREADY KNOWNnn...!
MATRON!
KNOWN...
KNOWN TO WHOM? WHO KEEPS THIS SECRET FROM ME?!
SUMMON THE FAMILY.
I DO NOT ENJOY BEING EMBARRASSED.


YOU LET HIM ESCAPE!
NO, MY MATRON! I HIT HIM SQUARELY WITH A LIGHTNING BOLT. HE NEVER EVEN SUSPECTED THE BLOW TO BE AIMED AT HIM!
YET HE STILL LIVES.
I WILL GET HIM. I HAVE THE WEAPON READIED; DRIZZT WILL BE DEAD BEFORE THE TENTH CYCLE, AS YOU COMMANDED.
WHY SHOULD I GRANT YOU ANOTHER CHANCE?
BECAUSE I WANT HIM DEAD!
I WANT TO TEAR THE LIFE FROM DRIZZT DO'URDEN! WHEN HE IS DEAD, I WANT TO RIP OUT HIS HEART AND DISPLAY IT AS A TROPHY!
YOU WILL HAVE YOUR SECOND CHANCE, MASOJ, BUT NOT ALONE. ALTON WILL ACCOMPANY YOU.
PERHAPS THE TWO OF YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH TOGETHER WHAT YOU BOTH FAILED TO DO ALONE.
THIS TIME YOU WILL FINISH THE DEED, ON YOUR LIVES.
COULD IT BE ANY OTHER WAY?


THINK!
YOU KNOW SOMETHING!
ONE OF YOU HAS SEEN SOME HINT, SOME SIGN OF THE HOUSE THAT PLOTS AGAINST US!
PERHAPS WE SAW, BUT DID NOT KNOW IT FOR WHAT IT WAS.
SILENCE! WHEN YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO MY QUESTION, YOU MAY SPEAK! ONLY THEN!
HELP DININ FIND HIS MEMORY.
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
AAAGH!!
KRAK
MASOO.


MASOJ HUN'ETT, IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE GNOMES, HE TRIED TO KILL ME.
WHEN I BATTLED THE ELEMENTAL, HE STRUCK ME DOWN WITH A BOLT OF LIGHTNING.
HE MAY HAVE BEEN AIMING FOR THE MONSTER.
MASOJ WAITED-- HE DID NOTHING UNTIL I BEGAN TO GAIN THE ADVANTAGE OVER THE CREATURE. THEN HE LOOSED HIS MAGIC, AS MUCH AT ME AS AT THE ELEMENTAL.
I THINK HE HOPED TO DESTROY US BOTH.
HOUSE HUN'ETT.
FIFTH HOUSE, UNDER MATRON SINAFAY.
SO THAT IS OUR ENEMY.
WE MUST LEARN OF THEM. DISPATCH THE SCOUTS!
I WILL KNOW THE COUNT OF HOUSE HUN'ETT'S SOLDIERS, ITS WIZARDS AND PARTICULARLY, ITS CLERICS.
PREPARE A COMMUNION! LET US LEARN OF MATRON SINAFAY'S STANDING WITH THE SPIDER QUEEN!


IMPUDENT!
YOU DARE TO SUMMON ME AGAIN?!
HOUSE DO'URDEN PLEASED THE SPIDER QUEEN. IT IS TRUE, BUT THAT ONE ACT DOES NOT DISPEL THE DISPLEASURE YOUR FAMILY BROUGHT LOLTH IN THE RECENT PAST!
DISPLEASURE?
H-HOW HAS MY FAMILY BROUGHT DISPLEASURE TO THE SPIDER QUEEN? BY WHAT ACT?
DO NOT THINK ALL IS FORGIVEN.
I HAVE TOLD YOU BEFORE, MATRON MALICE DO'URDEN. AND I SHALL TELL YOU ONE FINAL TIME.
THE SPIDER QUEEN DOES NOT REPLY TO QUESTIONS WHOSE ANSWERS ARE ALREADY KNOWNnn...!


WHO?!
WHO IN MY FAMILY HAS INVOKED THE WRATH OF LOLTH?!
WE ARE ABOUT TO GO TO WAR WITH A POWERFUL HOUSE! WITHOUT THE SPIDER QUEEN'S FAVOR, DO'URDEN WILL LIKELY CEASE TO EXIST!
IT WAS NOT ONE OF YOUR DAUGHTERS, MATRON.
NO, NO, BUT THE GUILTY ONE IS WITHIN THESE WALLS.
WE MUST DISCOVER THE CAUSE OF LOLTH'S DISPLEASURE IMMEDIATELY. THE SPIDER QUEEN MUST STAND BEHIND US IN OUR STRUGGLES!
WE WILL FIND THE PERPETRATOR... AND WE WILL PUNISH HIM.


WHICH HAS CHANGED, ZAKNAFEIN, YOU, MY MEMORIES, OR MY PERCEPTIONS?
AH, THE YOUNG HERO HAS RETURNED, THE WARRIOR WITH EXPLOITS BEYOND HIS YEARS.
HE WHO BRAVELY KILLED THE HOOK HORRORS.
WHY DO YOU MOCK ME?
HE WHO DEFEATED THE EARTH ELEMENTAL.
HE WHO KILLED THE GIRL CHILD OF THE SURFACE ELVES!
WHO CUT HER APART TO APPEASE HIS OWN THIRST FOR BLOOD!


MURDERER!
DID YOU ENJOY THE DYING CHILD'S SCREAMS?!
RAAH!
CHILD KILLER!


ENOUGH!
CRUNCH
WHAT OF YOU, ZAKNAFEIN DO'URDEN? I HAVE HEARD OF THE EXPLOITS OF HOUSE DO'URDEN'S WEAPONS-MASTER!
HOW HE SO ENJOYS KILLING! HOW MURDER COMES SO EASILY TO HIM!
THE MURDER OF CLERICS, OF OTHER DROW! DO YOU ENJOY IT ALL?
ENJOY?
I KILL! YES, I KILL DROW!
DO YOU THINK YOUR MOTHER WOULD LET ME LIVE IF I DID NOT SERVE HER EVIL DESIGNS?
SHE HATES ME, DESPISES ME FOR WHAT I KNOW.
ARE YOU SO BLIND TO THE EVIL AROUND YOU?
OR HAS IT CONSUMED YOU, AS IT CONSUMES ALL OF THEM IN THIS MURDEROUS FRENZY WE CALL LIFE?!
THE FRENZY THAT HOLDS YOU?
NO FRENZY HOLDS ME!


I LIVE AS BEST I CAN!
I SURVIVE IN A WORLD THAT IS NOT MY OWN, NOT IN MY HEART!
I KILL TO SERVE MATRON MALICE-- TO PLACATE THE RAGE, THE FRUSTRATION, THAT I KNOW IN MY SOUL.
WHEN I HEAR THE CHILDREN SCREAM...
THE CHILD LIVES!
I SWEAR, I DID NOT KILL THE ELVEN CHILD!
BUT DININ SAID--
HE WAS MISTAKEN. FOOLED BY ME.
I KNOCKED THE CHILD DOWN ONLY TO SPARE HER!
I KILLED NO ELVES THAT DAY.
THE ONLY ONES I DESIRED TO KILL WERE MY OWN COMPANIONS.
SO NOW WE KNOW.


YOU SUSPECTED HIM ALL ALONG, AS DID I, THOUGH WE BOTH HOPED DIFFERENTLY.
SO MUCH PROMISE! HOW I WISH THAT ONE HAD LEARNED HIS PLACE. HIS VALUES. PERHAPS...
MERCY?
DO YOU SHOW MERCY THAT WOULD FURTHER INVOKE THE SPIDER QUEEN'S DISPLEASURE?
NO, MATRON.
I HAD ONLY HOPED THAT DRIZZT COULD BE USED IN THE FUTURE, AS YOU HAVE USED ZAKNAFEIN ALL THESE YEARS.
WE ARE ABOUT TO FIGHT A WAR, MY DAUGHTER. LOLTH MUST BE APPEASED.
YOUR BROTHER HAS BROUGHT THIS FATE UPON HIMSELF. HIS ACTIONS WERE HIS OWN TO DECIDE.
HE DECIDED WRONGLY.


YOU HAVE SURVIVED!
SURVIVED THE ACADEMY, WHERE ALL THE OTHERS DIED!
MY SON!
YOUR...SON? WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER TELL ME...?
A FATHER HAS NO TRUE ROLE IN THIS TWISTED PLACE. I WAS MERELY ONE IN A LONG LINE OF MALICE'S LOVERS.
I TAUGHT YOU ALL I COULD AS WEAPONS-MASTER... AND FOR NINE YEARS, I PRAYED YOUR HONOR WOULD NOT BE STOLEN FROM YOU.
AND IT HASN'T! THEY COULD NOT CHANGE YOU, MY SON!
WHY--WHY HAVE YOU STAYED?
WHERE WOULD I GO?
THE UNDERDARK? NO ONE, NOT EVEN A WEAPONS-MASTER, WOULD LIVE LONG OUT IN THE CAVERNS.
THE SURFACE? TO FACE THE PAINFUL INFERNO EVERY DAY?
NO, MY SON. I AM TRAPPED AS YOU ARE TRAPPED.
BUT YOU WILL DO WELL IN MENZOBERRANZAN. MATRON MALICE WILL FIND AN APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR YOUR TALENTS, WHATEVER YOUR HEART MAY DESIRE.
TO LIVE A LIFE OF ASSASSINATIONS, AS YOU HAVE?
WHAT OTHER CHOICE IS THERE?


I WILL NOT KILL DROW.
YOU WILL. IN MENZOBERRANZAN, YOU WILL KILL OR BE KILLED.
I WISH THAT IT COULD BE DIFFERENT, BUT IT IS NOT SUCH A BAD LIFE.
I DO NOT LAMENT KILLING DARK ELVES. I PERCEIVE THEIR DEATHS AS THEIR SALVATION FROM THIS WICKED EXISTENCE.
IF THEY CARE SO DEARLY FOR THEIR SPIDER QUEEN, THEN LET THEM GO AND VISIT HER!
LOLTH! HA! SHE IS A VICIOUS QUEEN, THAT ONE. I WOULD SACRIFICE EVERYTHING FOR A CHANCE AT HER UGLY FACE!
I ALMOST BELIEVE YOU WOULD.
I WOULD INDEED! SO WOULD YOU!
TRUE ENOUGH!
BUT NO LONGER WOULD I BE ALONE!


Drizzt wandered alone through the maze of Menzoberranzan, drifting under the leering points of the great stone spears that hung from the cavern's high ceiling.
Matron Malice had specifically ordered all the family to remain within the house, fearing an assassination attempt by House Hun'ett.
But too much had happened to Drizzt this day for him to obey.
He had to think, and contemplating such thoughts, even silently, in a house full of nervous clerics might get him into serious trouble.
He envisioned the future times, the times that he and his father would share now that no secrets separated them.
Together they would be unbeatable.
They would cut through House Hun'ett's ranks with deadly ease, through the ranks of drow elves—killing their own people.


GUENHWYVAR!
I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU, ONE YOU WILL NOT ENJOY.
DRIZZT HAS GONE OUT ON PATROL BY HIMSELF. HE SHOULD NOT BE OUT THERE ALONE.
GO TO HIM, MY PET. FIND HIM OUT THERE IN THE GLOOM...
...AND KILL HIM.
GO! YOU CANNOT RESIST MY COMMAND!
I AM YOUR MASTER, UNTHINKING BEAST! YOU SEEM TO FORGET THAT FACT FAR TOO OFTEN!
YOU WILL OBEY ME!
KILL DRIZZT DO'URDEN!


The thought sickened Drizzt, but what choice did he have?
As Zaknafein had said, they were trapped in Menzoberranzan. To go anywhere else, the Underdark or the surface, would mean a quick death.
Nowhere in all the Realms would an elf of dark skin be accepted.
THWIP
UH!
HUUGH!


HUUUH...
RRRRRAWR
GUENHWYVAR?!
NO!


EEEEEEEEEE
RRRRRRRR
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
RRRRRR
WHAT IS WRONG, MY FRIEND?
DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE ME? HOW OFTEN WE HAVE FOUGHT TOGETHER!


MASOJ SENT YOU TO KILL ME, DIDN'T HE?
BUT YOU SAVED ME INSTEAD, GUENHWYVAR. YOU RESISTED THE COMMAND!
YOU COULD HAVE LET THE CAVE FISHER DO THE DEED FOR YOU, BUT YOU DID NOT!
FIGHT THE URGES, GUENHWYVAR!
MASOJ CLAIMS OWNERSHIP, I CLAIM FRIENDSHIP!
I AM YOUR FRIEND, GUENHWYVAR, AND I'LL NOT FIGHT AGAINST YOU!
PURRRRRR
NOW, TAKE ME TO YOUR MASTER.
YOUR FALSE MASTER.


MATRON, PERHAPS YOU COULD TELL ME WHY YOU'VE SUMMONED ME AT THIS LATE HOUR.
DRIZZT HAS GONE.
HE IS A SPIRITED BOY, SURELY HE WILL RETURN SOON. A MINOR INDISCRETION.
FOOL! THE BOY HAS DISPLEASED THE SPIDER QUEEN! EVEN YOU WERE NOT STUPID ENOUGH TO DO THAT!
YOU KNOW THE ELVEN CHILD LIVES!
WE ARE ABOUT TO GO TO WAR. WE ARE NOT IN LOLTH'S FAVOR, AND WE MUST CORRECT THE SITUATION!
AM I TO PUNISH HIM THEN?
HIS PUNISHMENT IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.
THEN WHY DISTURB MY SLUMBER?
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD WISH TO KNOW SINCE YOU AND DRIZZT BECAME SO CLOSE THIS DAY IN THE GYM. FATHER AND SON.
H..HOW DID YOU--?
IT MATTERS NOT.
AN ELVEN CHILD LIVES, AND SO A YOUNG DROW MUST DIE!


NO!
DRIZZT IS YOUNG. HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND--
HE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS DOING! HE DOES NOT REGRET HIS ACTIONS! HE IS SO LIKE YOU, ZAKNAFEIN!
TOO LIKE YOU!
YOU CANNOT-- HIS DEATH WOULD AID HOUSE HUNE'TT!
THE SPIDER QUEEN DEMANDS HIS DEATH.
SHE MUST BE APPEASED IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY HOPE IN OUR STRUGGLE AGAINST HUNE'TT!
I BEG YOU, DO NOT KILL THE BOY.
I DO NOT DESIRE THIS EITHER, YET I SEE NO ALTERNATIVE...
TAKE ME IN THE BOY'S STEAD!
YOU ARE WILLING TO DO THIS FOR HIM?
YOU KNOW THAT I AM.
EVER THE FOOL.
TO YOUR DISMAY, YOU KNOW THAT DRIZZT WOULD DO THE SAME FOR ME.
I WARN YOU, IF YOU DO ANYTHING TO DISRUPT THE CEREMONY TO APPEASE THE SPIDER QUEEN, I WILL GIVE DRIZZT TO BRIZA, AND SHE AND HER TORTUROUS TOYS WILL GIVE HIM TO LOLTH.
I HAVE OFFERED MYSELF, MALICE. HAVE YOUR FUN WHILE YOU MAY.
IN THE END, ZAKNAFEIN WILL BE AT PEACE-- MATRON MALICE WILL EVER BE AT WAR!


BEAT THEM ALL, MY SON. DO MORE THAN SURVIVE, AS I HAVE SURVIVED.
LIVE! BE TRUE TO THE CALLINGS OF YOUR HEART!


ABOUT TIME, STUPID BEAST!
IS IT DONE? IS DRIZZT DO'URDEN DEAD?
HARDLY.
YOU DO NOT OWN THE CAT.
WHO DOES, THEN? YOU?
GUENHWYVAR. ONLY GUENHWYVAR. I WOULD THINK A WIZARD WOULD HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAGIC AROUND HIM.
WHAT IS THIS, GUENHWYVAR?! KILL HIM NOW!
THOUGH I CARE LITTLE, I KNOW HOUSE MIN'ETT WISHES TO WAGE WAR AGAINST MY FAMILY. FOR WHAT REASONS, I CANNOT GUESS.
FOR THE VENGEANCE OF HOUSE DEVIR!
I AM ALTON DEVIR, LONE SURVIVOR OF HOUSE DEVIR!
HOUSE DO'URDEN WILL DIE FOR ITS CRIMES AGAINST MY FAMILY!
I WAS NOT EVEN BORN WHEN THE BATTLE TOOK PLACE.
OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE! YOU ARE A DO'URDEN, A FILTHY DO'URDEN. THAT IS ALL THAT MATTERS!


WILL YOU DEAL?
HA! WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY OFFER ME?
YOUR LIFE.
GIVE ME THE FIGURINE, MASOJ. GUENHWYVAR NEVER BELONGED TO YOU AND WILL SERVE YOU NO MORE.
IN RETURN, I WILL LEAVE HOUSE DO'URDEN AND TAKE ANOTHER WITH ME. A WEAPONS-MASTER. SURELY HOUSE HUNETT WILL HAVE GAINED AN ADVANTAGE IN THE COMING WAR IF BOTH DRIZZT AND ZAKNAFEIN--
SILENCE!
THE CAT IS MINE! I DO NOT NEED ANY BARGAINS FROM A PITIFUL DO'URDEN!
YOU ARE DEAD, FOOL, AND HOUSE DO'URDEN'S WEAPONS-MASTER WILL FOLLOW YOU TO THE GRAVE!
SO BE IT.
DIE!
ZZAK


TAKE HIM, GUENHWYVAR!
RRRRRR
NO!
OURN GALAN GOR PEM...
WHUD
YOU CANNOT DO THAT.
THMMMMMM


WHOOM
NOW GUENHWYVAR BELONGS TO NO ONE!
DAMN YOU!
AAGH!


HOW MANY MORE SPELLS, WIZARD?!
CRUNCH
SHUK
Y...YOUR FINGERS ARE BROKENNN....
PERHAPS....
...BUT THEY WILL HEAL..


ZAKNAFEIN!
ZAK, WE MUST--
GOOD MORNINGS, MY SON.
I INSTRUCTED YOU NOT TO LEAVE. WHY DID YOU DISOBEY ME?
I..I HAD MATTERS TO ATTEND, URGENT MATTERS. I DID NOT WISH TO BOTHER YOU WITH THEM.
WHERE IS ZAKNAFEIN?
AWAY WORKING FOR THE GOOD OF HOUSE DO'URDEN-- ON A PERSONAL MISSION.
WAR IS UPON US, DRIZZT.
I KNOW.
YOU HAVE SEEN BATTLE?
I HAVE.


YOU KNOW OF THE FACELESS ONE?
HE IS A HUN'ETT, GELROOS HUN'ETT.
NO. ONCE HE MAY HAVE BEEN. BUT ALTON DEVIR IS HIS TRUE NAME-- WAS HIS NAME.
THE LINK! GELROOS WAS TO KILL ALTON ON THE NIGHT OF HOUSE DEVIR'S FALL!
IT WOULD SEEM ALTON DEVIR PROVED STRONGER. AND WHEN SHE LEARNED OF THIS, MATRON SINAFAY ACCEPTED HIM, USED HIM TO HER GAIN. HE--
IS DEAD.
ONE LESS WIZARD TO DEAL WITH, THEN.
TWO. MAGOJ HUN'ETT IS NO MORE AS WELL.
MY SON! YOU HAVE BROUGHT US A GREAT EDGE IN THIS WAR!
AND... AND MY FATHER?
ZAKNAFEIN HAS SERVED HIS PURPOSE.
WE MUST MOVE AT ONCE, MY FAMILY! THIS DAY WE BECOME THE EIGHTH HOUSE OF MENZOBERRANZAN!
WOE TO THE ENEMIES OF DO'URDEN!
YOU KILLED HIM!
NO, MY BOY. YOU KILLED HIM!
YOUR INSOLENCE DEMANDED REPAYMENT TO LOLTH! BUT YOU LIVE, AS THE ELVEN CHILD LIVES.


YOU SACRIFICED ZAKNAFEIN! YOU GAVE HIM TO THAT DAMN SPIDER QUEEN!!
HE WENT WILLINGLY TO THE ALTAR FOR YOUR SAKE!
HEAR ME, DRIZZT. YOU HAVE NO OPTIONS. I OFFER YOU A LIFE. BUT IN EXCHANGE, YOU MUST DO AS I BID, JUST AS ZAKNAFEIN DID.
BOTH OF US WILL BENEFIT FROM THE AGREEMENT... WEAPONS-MASTER.
YOU ASK ME TO SERVE YOUR EVIL DESIGNS, BUT YOU LIE!
OUR PEOPLE, OUR SOCIETY, OUR RULES ARE ALL A LIE!
INSOLENT SLUG!
A TRUE GOD DAMN YOU ALL!
AND DAMN THE SPIDER QUEEN AS WELL!
AAGHH! THE LIGHT!
GET HIM! I WANT HIM DEAD!
HE'S GONE...!


I DO THIS FOR ZAKNAFEIN.
I LEAVE AS HE COULD NOT.
HIS LIFE HAS BEEN MY LESSON, A DARK SCROLL ETCHED BY THE HEAVY PRICE EXACTED BY MATRON MALICE'S EVIL PROMISES.
TAKE HEART, AS I DO, THAT WHEN WE MEET AGAIN, IN A LIFE AFTER THIS, IT WILL SURELY NOT BE IN THE HELLFIRE OUR KIN ARE DOOMED TO ENDURE.
GOODBYE, ZAK! MY FATHER!
THE END
THE LEGEND OF DRIZZT CONTINUES IN EXILE #1 - ON SALE IN OCTOBER!

Courage takes all forms.





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OCTOBER 2005

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